

British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) President-Elect / President Election Appeals Process

Right to Appeal

Candidates who are not progressed to the next stage of the President or President-Elect election process (either from nomination to interview, or from interview to ballot) will be informed of the outcome in writing and provided with clear reasons.

A candidate may lodge an appeal if they believe:

- There has been a procedural error in the handling of their application;
- The decision was made based on incorrect or incomplete information;
- There is evidence of bias, conflict of interest, or unfair discrimination.

Appeals may not be made on the basis of disagreement with the professional judgment of the Nominations Committee unless one of the above criteria is also met.

Appeals Panel

- Appeals will be reviewed by a specially convened Appeals Panel composed of:
 - One Lay Trustee (who will act as Chair)
 - One member of the Executive
 - One Elected Councillor
- The Chief Executive Officer will attend as a non-voting member to provide procedural context and support consistency.

Voting panel members must have had no prior involvement in the specific candidate decision under review.

Appeals Process

1. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive Officer within five (5) working days of the decision being communicated.
2. The appeal must clearly state the grounds for appeal and include any supporting documentation.
3. The Appeals Panel will convene and review the appeal within ten (10) working days of receipt.

4. Following review, the Panel may:

- Uphold the original decision;
- Refer the application back to the Nominations Committee for reconsideration (with or without recommendations);
- Determine an alternative outcome if a material procedural flaw is identified.

5. The Panel's decision is final and will be communicated in writing to the candidate.

Confidentiality and Reporting

All appeals will be treated in strict confidence. A summary (without identifying candidates) will be shared with the Board for assurance and learning purposes.

Review of the Appeals Process

This appeals process will be reviewed after each election cycle by the Governance Review Working Group (or equivalent governance body) to reflect any learning, feedback or changes in best practice.

Amendments to the process must be approved by the Board of Trustees, and any significant updates will be communicated to members ahead of future elections.